

BALTIMORE CITY
ADVISORY BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARKS MEETING
CARRIE MURRAY EDUCATION CENTER
1901 RIDGETOP ROAD (21207)
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 25, 2004

President Gosson called the meeting to order at 5:40 p.m.

Present:

Tracy Gosson, President, Board of Recreation & Parks
Dean Harrison, Commissioner, Board of Recreation & Parks
Fred Hopkins, Commissioner, Board of Recreation & Parks
Martin Knott, Commissioner, Board of Recreation & Parks
Wendell Peters Rawlings, Commissioner, Board of Recreation & Parks
Sam Rodriguez, Commissioner, Board of Recreation & Parks
Betty Woods, Secretary, Board of Recreation & Parks
Kimberley Flowers, Director, Department of Recreation & Parks
Roslyn Johnson, Associate Director of Recreation, Department of Recreation & Parks
Connie Brown, Associate Director of Parks, Department of Recreation & Parks
Gennady Schwartz, Chief, Capital Projects, Department of Recreation & Parks
Ericka Blount Danois, Acting P.I.O., Department of Recreation & Parks
Fran Spero, Director, Park Conservation/Community Outreach, Department of
Recreation & Parks

Guests:

Samuel Rosenberg, Friends of Leakin Park
Michele Rosenberg, President, Friends of Leakin Park
Seth Rosenberg, Friends of Leakin Park

Absent:

Carolyn Wainwright, Commissioner, Department of Recreation & Parks

MINUTES APPROVAL: Commissioner Knott called for approval of the Minutes for the July 28th meeting, Commissioner Rawlings seconded it; approval was unanimous.

PRESENTATION BY FRAN SPERO: Ms. Spero gave a synopsis of her Park Conservation and Community Outreach Division's activities, which are directed by her with the assistance of Anne Draddy, Community Forester. They are primarily assisted by Watershed Associations, "Friends of..." groups, individuals, etc., and their motto is "**Believe in a Greener Baltimore**".

They provide maintenance projects in the parks, and this summer they were able to provide 6 additional maintenance groups to assist regular park personnel. They are principally financed by private donations or grants. One such grant from the National Department of Fish and Wildlife was for \$39,000, and has enabled them to provide invasive special plant management in city parks.

Ms. Spero distributed a schedule of their impressive Fall 2004 park projects. The Board queried her as to the best ways they can be of assistance to her program. She suggested that helping to find sponsors would be very valuable, and she would be very glad to meet as many prospects as possible. Many of the Board members offered valuable suggestions and contacts that can be very helpful to her program. President Gosson requested that she be emailed a listing of existing sponsorships so that she has something to work with, as well as a listing of specific ways and means the Board can be of assistance. Ms. Spero said she would be glad to do so.

Ms. Spero stated that their presence at some, if not all, of these events would be most welcome, and then asked the Board to really look at the dates and events that are planned to see if their schedules will allow them to participate.

Ms. Spero was then thanked for her presentation.

POLICY RE: PARKLAND NAMING, MEMORIALS: In studying the revised and final Policy for these issues, the suggestion was made to send a letter of explanation to those who do not qualify, outlining those areas that did not meet the criteria. Commissioner Knott made a motion for approval; Commissioner Harrison seconded it, and approval was unanimous.

TROY BRAILEY PARK (FORMERLY EASTERWOOD PARK): The Easterwood Boys Club are actively trying to have City Council approve changing the name of this park to “Senator Troy Brailey-Easterwood Park”. There is, in fact, a Council hearing on September 8th on this Resolution. The late Senator’s daughter, Alice Torriente, however, opposes this action.

Now that the policy has been approved, and in consideration of Ms. Torriente’s opposition, the Board would like to hear from the Easterwood Boys Club, as well as Ms. Torriente, so that they may reach a fair recommendation. Invitations will, therefore, be issued to them for the Board meeting

scheduled for September 22nd. The big annual affair of the Easterwood Boys Club will be held in October, and they will then be able to make a formal announcement.

Mrs. Flowers further suggested that one of the Board members attend the Council Hearing on September 8th to state that this resolution has not been presented to the Board. Commissioner Knott agreed to be there.

DEPARTMENT'S ANNUAL REPORT: The Department of Recreation and Parks' first Annual Report was distributed to the Board, who are the first ones to get it...it has not been sent out in general distribution (sponsors, the media outlets, the press, etc.). Costs for this publication come out of the Marketing and Media budget. Next year's report will include a picture of the Board and a message from the Board President. Everyone was very impressed, and agreed it would be a very effective tool in applying for grants.

CONCESSION DISCUSSION: An effort is underway to develop a Master Concession Plan for the Department, patterned after the type of arrangement found in Chicago. Consideration was given to hiring the same people who were responsible for developing the Chicago plan, and they had even met with the Mayor. Unfortunately, they would only do it if they could "get a piece of Inner Harbor", which is out of the question because the City has a contract with Rouse.

There are those who feel that vendors in the parks would have a negative ecological effect. Mr. Brown pointed out that in Leakin Park, alone, there are 1200 acres and the public enjoys it for what it is. To a great extent, it is relatively unknown.

Realizing that the Department is greatly in need of revenue, it is evident that this is a venue that will have to be explored very thoroughly and looked at from every aspect.

END OF SUMMER TEEN JAM: Ms. Johnson reported that it was a great success! There were 2500 participants, 7 paid employees and 8 volunteers. Remarkably, there were no incidents, and the Department is looking forward to having it again next summer.

INVITATION REMINDER : President Gosson reiterated that the Board needs to receive invitations to upcoming affairs so that they can plan accordingly. Mrs. Flowers said they would soon be getting their invitations to many different events, i.e. the Bug Fest at Carrie Murray, Park Heights Sports Complex Grand Opening, the Haunted Hike at Carrie Murray, etc.

NEXT MEETING DATE AND LOCATION: The next meeting will be on Wednesday, September 22nd, 2004, 8:30 a.m., at the Baltimore Conservatory in Druid Hill Park.

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ADJOURNMENT: President Gosson adjourned the meeting at 6:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by,

Betty M. Woods, Secretary